

Watson

24 August 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

(Mr. [unclear])

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation between General Norstad, SHAPE,
and General Watson, Berlin

GEN NORSTAD: Any change since I talked to you last?

GEN WATSON: Not a bit.

GEN NORSTAD: If you will go along on that basis -- where you are held up where an individual or a vehicle can ease through by using some easy force, if I can put it that way, that should be done; but where it means running over people, stop at that point for the time being, and demand to see the Soviets; and then let me know just as fast as you can because, as you know, the atmosphere on the other side here is changing by the minute. If you will do that so that if an individual can shrug this off, or ease somebody off a fender, go ahead, but don't use a military force, as such, for this purpose and don't run over people for the time being, but demand in the strongest terms to see the Soviets. Coming back, if these people are blocked, just tell them to slowly ease their way and shove these guys off and come through. If there is great opposition, then again I think you will have to call the Soviets; but if it is a matter of just pushing people and running over their toes, run over their toes.

GEN WATSON: We don't want to knock them down.

GEN NORSTAD: I don't think it is a question of whether you want to at this particular point, but it is not desired on the other side that this should be done. Don't overdo the gentleness.

GEN WATSON: I understand.

GEN NORSTAD: I think you understand better than I.

GEN WATSON: I certainly do.

GEN NORSTAD: If there is anything I can do, call at any time.

GEN WATSON: Don't have any worry about this.

GEN NORSTAD: I don't have any. I couldn't be more pleased having you up there, my friend, and for your assurance, I have just talked to Lem and told him the instructions I gave you and he had nothing to add, so everything is okay on that.

GEN WATSON: May I review my instructions now? The first step when held up, the individual will ease around and if he can go ahead, go ahead, avoid knocking anybody down, don't use military force or actually run over people until I check with you. If that takes place -- being held up -- I personally demand strongly that I be given a Soviet contact and demand the right to exercise my rights here in the city.

GEN NORSTAD: That's right.

GEN WATSON: Now, have you a minute to listen about the water gun? The report is a little incomplete yet. We had some soldiers on duty there, one as a photographer. The man on duty is still there; this call broke into the conversation with him. I understand what happened was that these men were near the sector border on duty and the Vopo squirt gun came along and soaked them. It actually was caused by civilian photographers in the vicinity taking pictures of the water gun. They (the Vopo) were provoked by the photographing going on and hit the gun, and hit the man and his buddy on duty. My man made as if to reach for his hand grenade, and that was the end of it. No other event took place so far as I know and, if ~~xxxxxx~~ upon completion of my investigation I find there were more, I will inform you. I am calling Jack Daley now to inform him of these two incidents and will tell him that you have been informed.

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